

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are pending in this application. Non-elected claims 9-12 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By this Amendment, claims 5, 9 and 10 are amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the original claims. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-3 and 6-8 are allowed and claim 5 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 5 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 5 are respectfully requested.

II. Rejoinder

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of non-elected method claims 9-12. By this Amendment, claim 9 is amended to include all the limitations of product claim 1. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and, thus, contain all the limitations of claim 1. Because process claims 9-12 include all the limitations of product claim 1, process claims 9-12 should be rejoined with the product claim when the product claim is found allowable. Because the product claim is indicated as being allowed, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 9-12. Applicants address the provisional objection to claim 9 and rejection of claims 10-12 below.

III. Provisional Claim Objection

The Office Action provisionally objects to claim 9 for informalities. By this Amendment, Claim 9 is amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

IV. Provisional Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112 of Claims 10-12

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 10-12 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Tommy T. Kim
Registration No. L0543

JAO:TTK

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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